The phenomenon cause of bamboo flowering and death of its clumps thereafter is still not clearly known.

(b) The flowering cycle of bamboos depends on the species of the bamboo plant and not the State. In most of the States except Mizoram and some other areas of North East, the flowered clumps are harvested immediately after flowering and adequate measures are also taken for protection of area against fires and grazing. The main area of concern is Mizoram, which has the past experience of famine like conditions due to rodent menace. The details of flowering of Muli Bamboo (Melocanna baccifera) and Peka Bamboo (Bambusa tulda) in Mizoram are as under.

Sl. No.	Species	Year					Physiological cycle (Years)
1.	Muli Bamboo	1815	1863	1911	1959	2006-07	48
2.	Peka Bamboo	1785	1833	1881	1929	1977	48

In order to facilitate a coordinated and integrated action to deal with flowering of bamboos in Mizoram and other States in the North Eastern Region, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted a Steering Committee. The Ministry has also issued directions to the State Governments of the North Eastern Region to formulate Action Plans for managing the bamboo flowering areas.

(c) The bamboo seeds are rich in carbohydrate and protein and are the source for their regeneration.

Cleanliness in Railway Coaches

*166. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of rail coaches are not upto the mark, causing inconvenience to the rail passengers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) All railway passenger coaches are properly maintained, cleaned and attended prior to commencement of journey from the base station. Trains are also

cleaned at nominated enroute stations while travelling safaiwalas are provided on selected trains for cleaning on the run. However, owing to intensive use and long continuous journeys, coaches become dirty on run despite enroute cleaning arrangements. Also, careless use, vandalism and lack of civic sense prevailing in certain regions and some trains negate the Railway's efforts in keeping the coaches clean and tidy.

In order to meet the increasing passenger aspirations and to bring about further improvements, several new initiatives have been taken in the recent times as enumerated below:

(i) Strengthening enroute cleaning arrangements by providing mechanized cleaning facilities under "Clean Train Station" scheme at identified 15 stations on major trunk routes.

(ii) Introduction of environment friendly, controlled discharge toilets in order to avoid station area being polluted by toilet discharge.

(iii) Development of automatic exterior washing facility for trains at busy terminals.

(iv) Pest control on all coaches once a month through specialized agencies.

(v) Introduction of biodegradable waste disposal bags as a part of Clean Train Station scheme.

(vi) Introduction of "State of the Art" modular toilets in place of conventional toilet for all classes of coaches. These toilets are user friendly, elegant, easy to clean and pilferage proof.

(vii) Provision of 110 Volts electrical fittings in place of conventional 24 Volts and use of fluorescent fittings in place of bulbs.

(viii) Introduction of Jan Shatabdi type services in which second class coaches have upper class like feature including ergonomic chairs, noise control, modular toilets, rail mart, improved flooring etc.

(ix) Indigenous manufacture of modern technology LHB type coaches with advance feature including screw less fibre reinforced plastic interiors, modular toilets with control discharge system which does not dirty the station area, electronic taps and toilet fittings, environment control air-conditioning, ergonomic seats, superior ride comfort, noise insulation etc.

(x) Provision of adequate maintenance time and manpower at base depot for maintenance and cleaning for all new trains and progressive rationalization for all existing trains.